

## How-to guide available for hands-on handler/applicator training

A how-to guide for growers and associations that want to sponsor hands-on training for pesticide handlers and applicators is now available. The guide was developed as a result of two successful hands-on training programs that WSDA cosponsored with the agricultural communities in Wenatchee and Quincy.

The training was modeled after a program developed by the University of California at Davis. In two sessions, participants worked in small groups of 10-12 people and rotated through four stations: First Aid, Personal Protective Equipment, Mixing and Loading, and Clean up and Disposal. Two bilingual, volunteer trainers led each group using a "learning by doing" approach.

The Washington curriculum is being revised to replace the first aid section with a section on leaks and spills.

Anyone requesting the how-to guide will also receive a copy

of the workshop curriculum. This contains not only the subject material but also many helpful ways to encourage audience participation. One of the values of this type of training is that everyone learns from the experiences of others.



WSDA, in partnership with Washington State Horticultural Association and Washington State University, is planning eight hands-on training programs for handlers in the tree fruit industry. This training will take place early next year. Anyone interested in observing the training for possible use in their training programs is invited to attend. A schedule will be available from WSDA by the end of 2001.

To request a copy of the how-to guide and training curriculum, or to learn more about the 2002 training programs, please call Flor Tovar at (509) 662-0590, e-mail [ftovar@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ftovar@agr.wa.gov) or Margaret Tucker at (360) 902-2015, e-mail [mtucker@agr.wa.gov](mailto:mtucker@agr.wa.gov).

## Be cautious of telephone and internet pesticide sales



The old adage, "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," should be remembered when buying pesticides over the telephone or Internet. Although legitimate businesses exist, others make false claims and sell products that cannot be used in Washington.

Protect yourself. Know what you are buying, why you need the product, and what you are willing to pay. If you have doubts about any product, contact a local pesticide dealer to compare prices and to get information on the concentration of active ingredients. If you suspect bogus claims, call the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) toll-free at (877) 301-4555.

Concerned consumers continue to report telephone sales pitches that claim longer periods of effectiveness than the chemical can realistically provide. The products are sold at a higher price, justified by a claim of multiple-year performance.

WSDA pesticide specialists are also concerned about the sale of restricted use pesticides over the Internet. Sales of these products require that both the seller and the buyer be licensed with WSDA and that the dealer maintain sales records. Out-of-state dealers are often not aware of Washington requirements, particularly in regard to pesticides that are state but not federal restricted use.

Products shipped from other regions of the U.S. may also pose legal risks for Washington applicators. These pesticides may have the same brand name or Environmental Protection

Agency registration number as products sold here, but they may not be labeled for use in Washington. Products sold through local dealers are properly packaged and labeled for use on crops and other plants grown in Washington. It is up to the purchaser to make sure they are using pesticides on labeled sites.

An example of this from a couple of years ago involved the herbicide Pursuit. At the time of the incidents, there were two distinct packages of Pursuit available. One of these was labeled for dry peas and lentils. The other was labeled for use on soybeans and other mid-western crops. Because the Midwest packaging was less expensive, some Washington growers purchased and illegally used this product on crops not found on the label.

Products purchased over the Internet may be shipped from a distribution center or dealer in another part of the U.S. that is not familiar with the minor crops that are grown in Washington. This can lead to applicators innocently purchasing pesticides that are not labeled for use on their intended target site. Unfortunately, the result could be the same as with the growers who knowingly purchased the Pursuit herbicide – an illegal application. The ultimate responsibility is on the person buying and applying the product.

The WSDA is collecting information on telephone and Internet pesticide sales to ensure that the products offered are properly registered. If you suspect a sales pitch is too good to be true, please get as much information as possible on the product and the company and call the department toll-free at (877) 301-4555.